Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7465

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0787

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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TAGS: PLAB, SHUM, SF, US, UK, GW

SUBJECT: LABOR REFORM: WIEHAHN TRIP

REF: A) STATE 66742; B) JOHANNESBURG 0675

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LABOR LEGISLATION NIC WIEHAHN, CONFIRMED HIS PLANS TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA NEXT WEEK FOR AN EXTENDED TRIP ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE RAND DAILY MAIL. THE ARTICLE STATES: QUOTE:

DURING HIS MONTH LONG ABSENCE HE WILL VISIT VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES, AND MAY ALSO GO TO BRITAIN. PROF WIEHAHN SAID YESTERDAY THE VISIT WOULD BE PARTLY CONNECTED TO THE COMMISSION'S WORK AND WOULD BE AIMED AT GATHERING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEMS. UNCLASSIFIED

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HE WAS RELUCTANT TO COMMENT FURTHER.

PROF WIEHAHN ALSO SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD NO LONGER BRING OUT THE INTERIM REPORT ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR THE PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

THE COMMISSION WAS ANXIOUS TO RELEASE ITS FINDINGS AS SOON

AS POSSIBLE AND CERTAIN IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF ITS FINAL REPORT MAY BE RELEASED IN INSTALLMENTS, HE SAID.

THE COMMISSION STILL HAD AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF WORK AHEAD OF IT AND HE WAS STILL NOT ABLE TO GIVE AN INDICATION OF WHEN THE REPORT WOULD BE COMPLETED.

"BUT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR TALKSAND ARE WORKING AS HARD AS WE CAN. THERE IS NOT TIME WASTED, AND WE ARE UTILIZING EVERY POSSIBLE MINUTE."

"TIME AND MONEYWISE THIS IS A MOST EFFECTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE COMMISSION," HE SAID.

THERE HAD BEEN A TREMENDOUS RESPONSE FROM ALL POPULATION GROUPS AND THE COMMISSION HAD BEEN OVERWHELMED WITH EVIDENCE, PROF WIEHAHN SAID.

THE COMMISSION COMPLETED ITS LAST ORAL SESSION IN PRETORIA THIS WEEK.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE NOW FACED WITH THE MAMMOTH TASK OF WORKING THROUGH 25,000 PAGES OF WRITTEN EVIDENCE, OF WHICH 18,000 PAGES CAME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. UNQUOTE. JOHNSON UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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